



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
FOR THE CITY OF SAN RAFAEL**

PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

**PROCLAMATION OF AN ERADICATION PROJECT AGAINST THE
LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH**

The light brown apple moth (LBAM), a serious exotic insect pest, was detected in the area of San Rafael/Ross, in Marin County, between March 27, 2007 and January 29, 2008. The LBAM is not known to occur in California. This is the first detection of LBAM in North America. This pest attacks over 250 different hosts, many of which are grown in Marin County. Emergency eradication action is needed to protect California from the negative economic and environmental impacts the establishment of this pest would cause.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's eradication protocol is based upon input from professional staff and recommendations from expert scientists on a LBAM Technical Working Group.

A biological control technique, called mating disruption, will be used to eradicate the LBAM in the San Rafael/Ross area. This technique requires the deployment of pheromone-infused "twist ties" by ground. The twist ties are placed on trees, shrubs and objects such as fence posts in infested areas. The twist tie dispensers contain an odorless, synthetic insect pheromone (sexual attractant) that confuses male moths, impairing their ability to find mates. Once the breeding cycle of the moth is broken, the light brown apple moth population is reduced and ultimately eradicated from the area. Twist tie applications target the adult male moth and preclude pesticide spraying, unless immature (larval) life stages are detected. Residents in the affected area will be notified in writing at least 24 hours prior to any deployment of twist ties on their property.

In the San Rafael/Ross area 21 moths were captured over multiple generations. This is a strong indication that a breeding population exists in the area. If additional LBAM or other life stages of the LBAM are detected, additional eradication measures will occur within a 200-meter radius of the find sites. Following any eradication activity, completion notices are left with the homeowners detailing precautions to take. Mating disruption technique will be repeated every 90 days for two life cycles.

Enclosed are the Proclamation of an Eradication Project, a map of the eradication area, the work plan, the pest profile and the host list.